

# Daily Report 310/2020

31 December 2020<sup>1</sup>

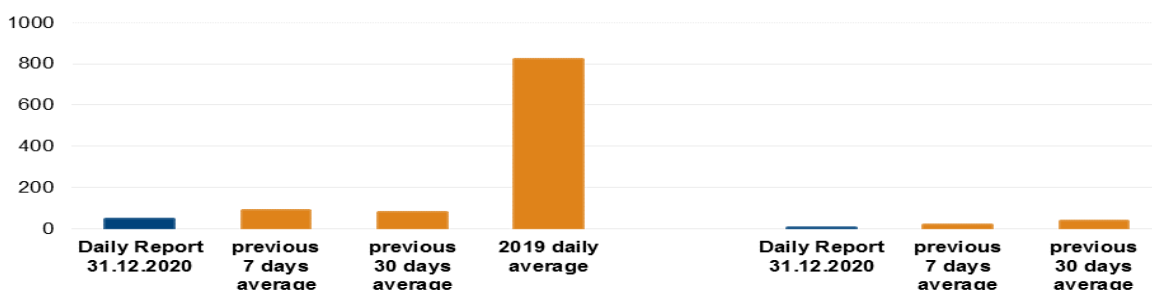
## Summary

- The SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 58 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 26 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 37 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the area near Zolote, near its northern edge, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted a 130m-long trench, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction of critical civilian infrastructure and demining activities.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission visited a border crossing point and monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation outside government control, all in Donetsk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 30 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. Throughout the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

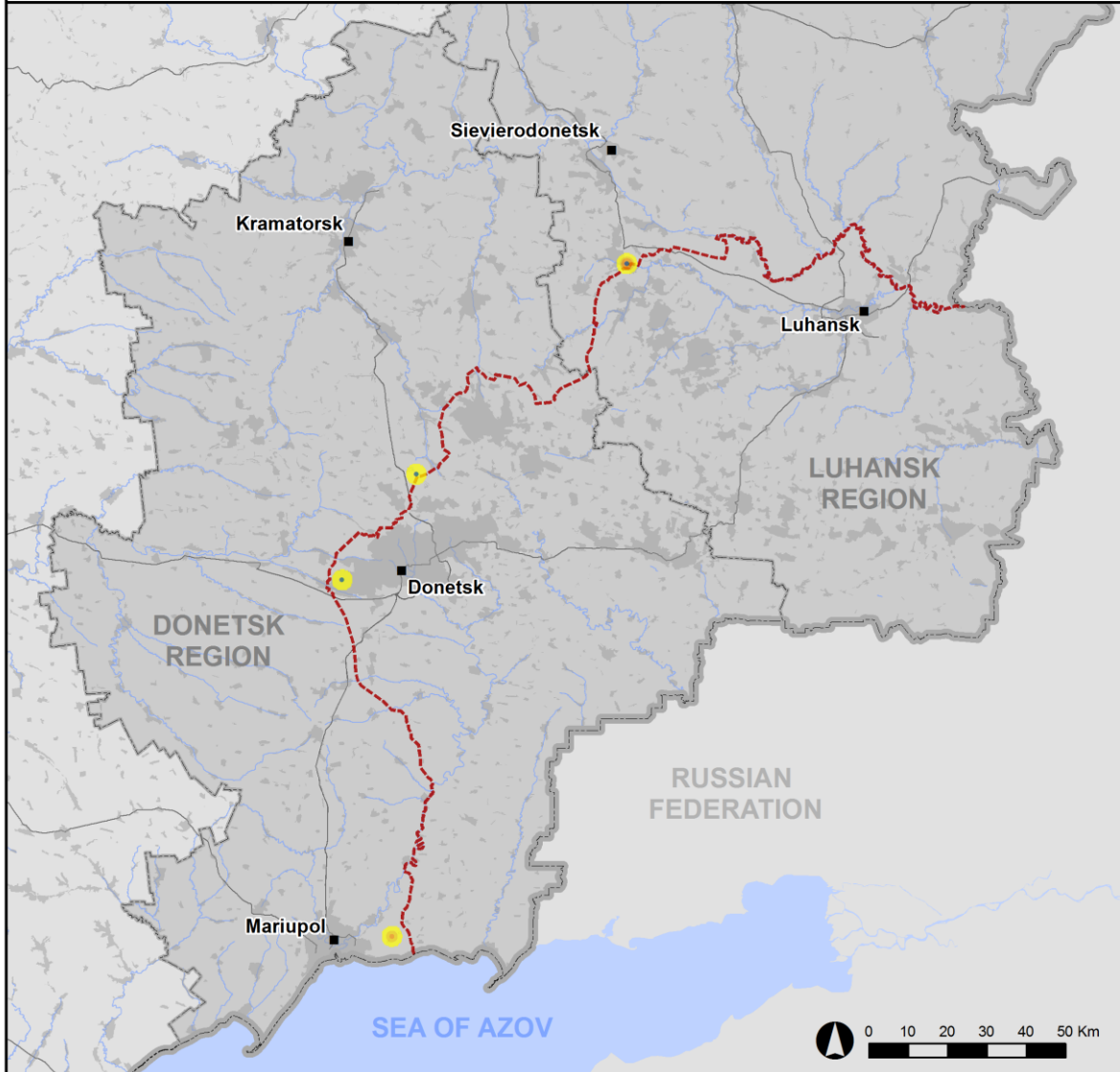
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

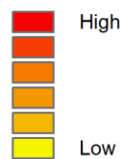


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30 December 2020



#### Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- ..... Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

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Created: 31/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations, including five undetermined explosions, four of which occurred in an area north of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) and one in an area north of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 58 ceasefire violations, including 16 undetermined explosions near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 26 ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions, all during evening hours in an area north of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 37 ceasefire violations in the region, including ten undetermined explosions, all in the aforementioned area near the disengagement area.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 5,101 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,129 explosions, 665 projectiles in flight, 61 muzzle flashes, 43 illumination flares and at least 2,203 bursts and shots).

### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>

The SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 28 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, about 20m south of its northern edge, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a 130m-long trench running in a south-westerly direction, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in imagery from 4 November 2020).

On the evening of 29 December, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded two undetermined explosions and 24 projectiles in flight, all at an assessed range of 2-4km east, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 30 December, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the same day, while positioned at two locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

### Anti-tank mines near Shyrokyne, Donetsk region

On 29 December, on the north-eastern edge of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time an anti-tank mine about 20m north of road M-14 and again spotted 13 anti-tank mines (part of a known minefield) laid across

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<sup>5</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

the same road and in a field south of it, all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. About 2.5km south of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), the same UAV again spotted 14 anti-tank mines laid across road M-14, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 17 September 2020](#)).

### **Withdrawal of weapons**

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

### **SMM facilitation of construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS.

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions.

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia remained closed.

### **Border areas outside government control**

On 30 December, while at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about two hours, the Mission observed 60 cars (including 12 with “DPR” plates), two buses with “DPR” plates (with about 45 passengers each, mixed genders and ages) and a covered-cargo truck with “DPR” plates, as well as 61 pedestrians (43 men and 16 women, mixed ages, as well as two children, about five and 15 years old) entering Ukraine. During the same period, it also observed 27 cars (including 16 with “DPR” plates), two buses with “DPR” plates (one with about 20 passengers, mixed genders and ages), as well as four pedestrians (two men and two women in their twenties and thirties) exiting Ukraine.

The SMM also monitored border areas outside government control near Petrivske (65km east of Donetsk) and Stepanivka (76km east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

### **\*Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate**

*The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Package of Measures have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the Government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report 29 December 2020](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.*

*Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:*

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk), south of the destroyed Donetsk International airport.<sup>6</sup> The SMM lost spatial control over the UAV, which then landed at an unidentified location near the airport, from where the Mission was unable to retrieve it. The Mission could not determine if the landing was triggered by the automatic landing procedure of the UAV in difficult-access environments or was the result of probable jamming.

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<sup>6</sup> The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

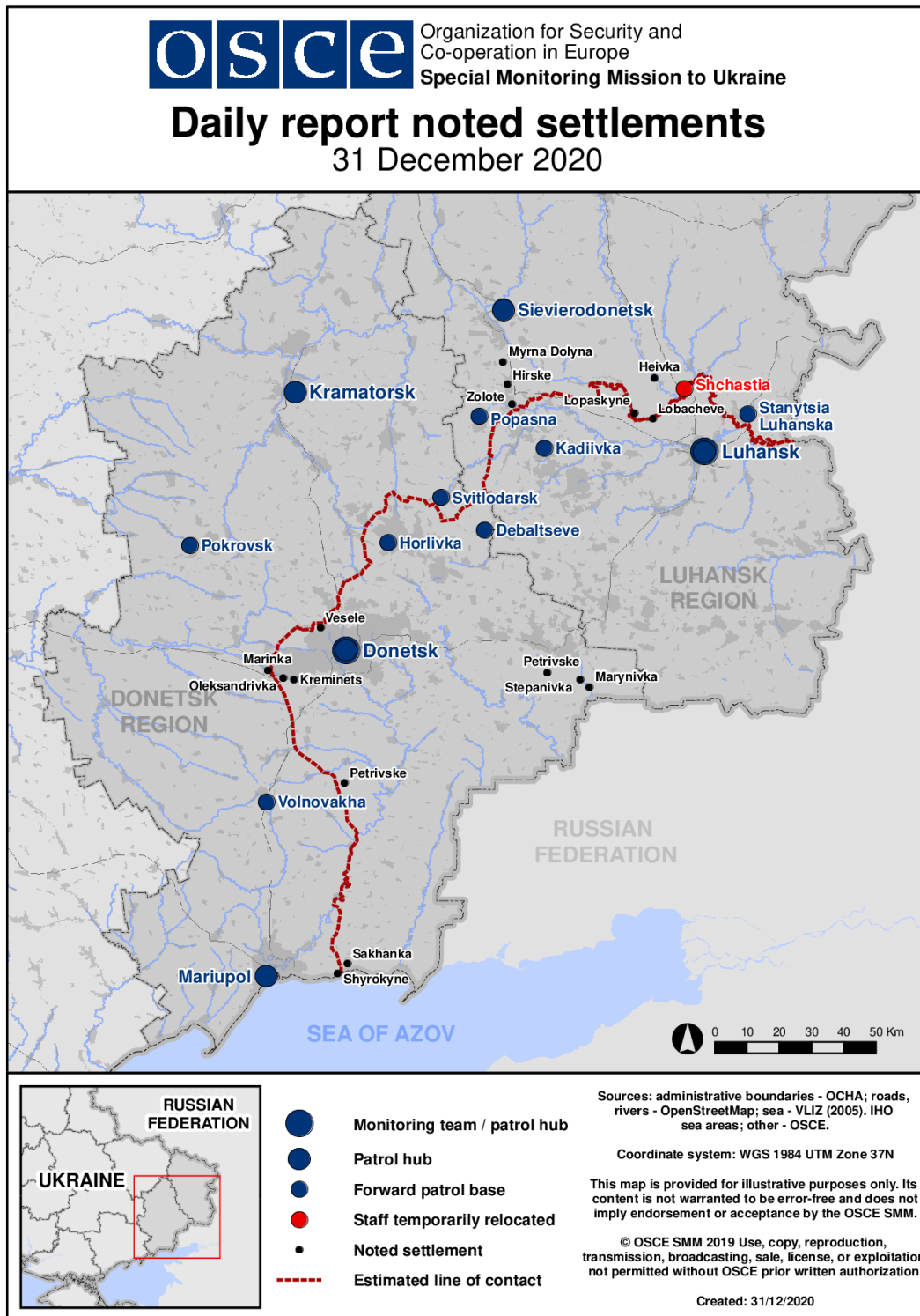
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 December 2020<sup>7</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.5km S of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	5km N	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 10:55
About 2.5km SSE of Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	2-3km ESE	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	30-Dec, 11:25-11:27
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 13:46
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	8	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:02
	2-4km E	Recorded	5	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:04
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:04
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:06
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:07
	2-4km E	Recorded	3	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:07
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 19:08
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:08

<sup>7</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:08
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:08
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:08
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:08
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:09
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 19:11

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</sup> The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff have temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States, as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).